

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10-15, amend claim 1, and add new claims 16-19, as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which are, or were, in this application:

1. (Currently amended) A matrix band, ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising fibers and a matrix, at least a portion of said matrix being at least partially uncured, said matrix band having a thickness ranging from 0.05 to 1.5 mm.

2. (Previously presented) Matrix band according to claim 1, wherein a portion of said matrix is in a cured form.

3. (Previously presented) Matrix band according to claim 1 wherein said matrix is selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, hydroxyethyl methacrylate, urethan dimethacrylate, triethylene glycol dimethacrylate, 2,2-bis(4-(2-hydroxy-3-methacryloxy)phenyl)propane, polymethyl methacrylate, starburst methacrylated polyesters, hyperbranched methacrylated polyesters and mixtures thereof.

4. (Previously presented) Matrix band according to claim 1, wherein said fibers are selected from the group consisting of inert glass fibers, bioactive glass fibers, silica fibers, quartz fibers, ceramic fibers, carbon/graphite fibers, aramid fibers, ceramic fibers, poly(p-phenylene-2,6-benzobisoxazole) fibers, poly(2,6-diimidazo(4,5-b^{4'},5'-e)pyridinylene-1,4(2,5-dihydro)phenylene fibers, polyolefin fibers, fibers prepared from copolymers of olefins, polyester fibers, polyamide fibers, polyacrylic fibers, sol-gel processed silica fibers, collagen fibers, cellulose fibers, modified cellulose fibers and mixtures thereof.

5. (Previously presented) Matrix band according to claim 1, wherein said fibers are in the form of continuous fibers, chopped fibers, mat, sheet or mixtures thereof, and wherein they are oriented in one, two, three or four directions, randomly or mixtures thereof.

6. (Previously presented) Matrix band according to claim 1, wherein it further comprises particulate filler material.

7. (Previously presented) Matrix band according to claim 6, wherein said particulate filler material is selected from the group consisting of inert glass, bioactive glass, metal oxides, ceramics, polymers and mixtures thereof.

8. (Previously presented) A dental restoration kit comprising a matrix band according to claim 1, a restorative dental composite and an adhesive.

9. (Previously presented) Kit according to claim 8, wherein it further comprises an applicator device.

Claims 10-15 (Canceled).

16. (New) A method for the fabrication of a dental restoration comprising the steps of

drilling a cavity in a tooth to be repaired,
etching or priming the surface of said tooth,
applying a matrix band of claim 1 around said tooth, and
filling said cavity with restorative material.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising curing the restorative material.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising covering the thus obtained restoration with a covering material.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising polishing the thus obtained restoration.